



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Shelter's Smallest Orphans Need Foster Families**

**July 2, 2009 – Waterford, VA** – The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is looking for interested individuals and families to serve as foster care providers for special cats and kittens.

Summer is also known as “kitten season” – the time of year when cats give birth and animal shelters are overwhelmed with homeless litters. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is no exception, and is already beginning to see an increase in very young and orphaned kittens coming to the facility.

Foster homes are most often needed for kittens too young to be adopted or mother cats with their babies. These animals require a level of care and socialization that is difficult to achieve in a shelter environment that is not staffed 24 hours-a-day. Foster care provides one of the few opportunities these animals have to survive.

Adult cats are also in need of the kind of the special, one-on-one care a foster home provides, especially during this time when the Animal Shelter is experiencing a rise in its cat and kitten population. Many older or more sensitive cats are able to thrive in foster homes with families that love them, which helps ease their transition into permanent adoptive homes.

Depending on their individual situation, animals may be in their foster homes for several days to several weeks. Foster families are provided with training and support from Animal Shelter staff to ensure that they are prepared to care for the animals in their home and any special needs they may have.

An informational orientation to the foster care program will be held on **Wednesday, July 15, at 6:30pm at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter**. Potential foster parents will learn more about the program and how they can help animals in need. All interested parties are encouraged to attend!

Make a difference for the smallest shelter orphans – become a foster parent!

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).

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